

3) (currently amended) ~~The~~ An external computer device of claim 1, wherein said standardized connector comprises an IEEE 1394 bus with a standard interface comprising:

a housing;

a standardized connector for connecting to a computer; and

a cover integral with the housing, wherein the cover has a

protective position and an engaged position, such that when the cover is in the protective position, the connector is covered by the cover, and when the cover is in the engaged position the connector is exposed from the cover, wherein the cover automatically extends upon removal of the external computer device from the computer.

4) (original) The external computer device of claim 1, wherein said external computer device is a mass storage memory device.

A/ 5) (currently amended) The external computer device of claim 1, ~~wherein said external computer device is a flash RAM drive~~ further comprising a front barrier protector.

6) (currently amended) The external computer device of claim 1, wherein said external computer device is selected from the list consisting of at least one of the following:

- a) a wireless adapter;
- b) a barcode scanner;
- c) a RF transceiver;
- d) an identification interface;
- e) an electronic voice recorder;
- f) a music jukebox; and
- g) ~~a geo-location system~~ a flash RAM drive.

7) (original) An external computer device with a standard interface comprising: a) a housing; b) memory contained within said housing; c) a standardized connector for connecting to a computer; d) a retractable cover including a front barrier protector, integral with said housing, wherein said cover has a protective position and an engaged position, such that when said cover is in said protective position, said connector is covered by said cover, and when said cover is in said engaged position said connector is exposed from said cover.

8) (original) The external computer device of claim 7, wherein said standardized connector comprises a universal serial bus.

9) (currently amended) The external computer device of claim 3 7, wherein ~~said standardized connector comprises an IEEE-1394 bus~~ the cover automatically retracts upon the connection of the external computer device to the computer.

10) (original) The external computer device of claim 7, wherein said memory is a mass storage device.

11) (original) The external computer device of claim 7, wherein said memory is a flash RAM.

12) (original) The external computer device of claim 7, wherein said external computer device is selected from the list consisting of at least one of the following:

- a) a wireless adapter;
- b) a barcode scanner;
- c) a RF transceiver;
- d) an identification interface;
- e) an electronic voice recorder;
- f) a music jukebox; and

g) a geo-location system.

13) (original) An external computer device with a standard interface comprising;

a housing;

a standardized connector for connecting to a computer; and

an inner sleeve body integral with said housing, wherein said inner sleeve has a protective position and an engaged position, such that when said inner sleeve is in said protective position, said connector is covered by said inner sleeve, and when said cover is in said engaged position said connector is exposed from said inner sleeve.

14) (original) The external computer device of claim 13, wherein said standardized connector comprises a universal serial bus.

15) (currently amended) The external computer device of claim 13, ~~wherein said standardized connector comprises an IEEE-1394 bus~~ further comprising a front barrier protector.

16) (original) The external computer device of claim 13, wherein said external computer device is a mass storage memory device.

17) (original) The external computer device of claim 13, wherein said external computer device is a flash ram drive.

18) (original) The external computer device of claim 13, wherein said external computer device is selected from the list consisting of at least one of the following:

h) a wireless adapter;

i) a barcode scanner;

- j) a RF transceiver;
- k) an identification interface;
- l) an electronic voice recorder;
- m) a music jukebox; and
- n) a geo-location system.

19) (original) An external computer device with a standard interface comprising:

a housing; and

a standardized connector for connecting to a computer, wherein said connector is disposed on a slideable carriage, such that it is retractable within said housing.

20) (original) The external computer device of claim 19, wherein said standardized connector comprises a universal serial bus.

21) (currently amended) The external computer device of claim 19, ~~wherein said standardized connector comprises an IEEE-1394 bus~~ further comprising a front barrier protector.

22) (original) The external computer device of claim 19, wherein said external computer device is a mass storage memory device.

23) (original) The external computer device of claim 19, wherein said external computer device is a flash ram drive.

24) (original) The external computer device of claim 19, wherein said external computer device is selected from the list consisting of at least one of the following:

- a) a wireless adapter;

- b) a barcode scanner;
- c) a RF transceiver;
- d) an identification interface;
- e) an electronic voice recorder;
- f) a music jukebox; and
- g) a geo-location system.

25) (original) An external computer device comprising a standardized connector in communication with said external device for connecting to a computer, wherein said standardized connector is in a long-throw configuration.

26) (original) The external computer device of claim 25, wherein said standardized connector comprises a universal serial bus.

27) (original) The external computer device of claim 25, wherein said standardized connector comprises an IEEE-1394 bus.

28) (original) The external computer device of claim 25, wherein said external computer device is a mass storage memory device.

29) (original) The external computer device of claim 25, wherein said external computer device is a flash ram drive.